

**2023 TASMANIAN RHODES SCHOLAR
ANNOUNCEMENT BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TUESDAY 25 OCTOBER 2022**

Thank you all for attending this afternoon for the announcement of the Tasmanian Rhodes Scholar for 2023.

I pay my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community and recognise their enduring culture and continued connection to land, sea, and culture.

Now, to the announcement of the 2023 Rhodes Scholar. This year, there were five shortlisted applicants from an excellent academic field of eleven initial applications from varying disciplines. As is inevitably the case, the task of the Selection Committee has been very difficult indeed.

Each short-listed candidate was most impressive. It was a pleasure for our Selection Committee to meet and interview each of you. However, there can only be one Tasmanian Rhodes Scholar each year from the short-listed candidates interviewed.

On behalf of all our Selection Committee, we want to assure each unsuccessful candidate that we are all confident that each of you has demonstrated academic excellence, skills and enthusiasm to succeed in your chosen field. May we remind you that the Rhodes Scholarship is not the only pathway to achieve your ambitions.

The Tasmanian Rhodes Scholar for 2023 is:

Samantha Climie.

[HE lead applause]

I am pleased to make an additional announcement. As well as supporting a Rhodes Scholar from each State, the Rhodes Trust funds three extra scholarships

each year for the “Australia at large” Rhodes Scholarship. Each State and Territory is permitted to nominate candidates for these national “Australia at large” Rhodes Scholarships. The nominees from around the country will be interviewed next month by a National Selection Panel.

Tasmania does not always nominate an applicant for the National Rhodes Scholarship. However, this year our Committee agreed to make two national nominations and the nominees are:

Eve Poland and Fletcher Clarke

[HE lead applause]

May I acknowledge with us today, Mr Bruce Cole, and Mrs Cathy Cole. Bruce is one of our oldest and most distinguished Tasmanian Rhodes Scholars. He was selected as a Rhodes Scholar in 1952: seventy years ago. That is indeed a most significant milestone. We all congratulate you.

May I also welcome back to a much more recent Rhodes Scholar – Oliver Gales, our 2020 recipient.

Thank you, and please now enjoy a cup of tea.